

October 29, 2005

I would like to voice my opinion on the proposed rule change in WT Docket No. 05-235.

RETAIN THE TELEGRAPHY TEST REQUIREMENT FOR THE AMATEUR EXTRA CLASS OPERATOR LICENSE.

Currently the most expert amateur operators are the over 100,000 Amateur Extra Class license holders. It took years to build this resource and telegraphy proficiency was part of it. I hold an Amateur Extra Class license and have been licensed over 43 years.

In an emergency, all modes of communications are necessary. With the recent last three hurricanes, amateurs filled the communications gap using all modes, including telegraphy.

An analogy to this subject, would be that the United States Navy and Coast Guard still requires a check be taken three (3) times a day with a sextant. This is to correlate the position of latitude and longitude obtained with the reading from the GPS system aboard ship. The GPS replaced the sextant as the primary means of determining a position, but not eliminating the sextant as a tool. Therefore, telegraphy still would provide a good back up communications mode.

Thank you,

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